

Bayh Reveals Army Civilian Spy Plan

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The Army's "civil disturbance information collection plan," a document that apparently served as the rationale for extensive domestic information-gathering by the Army in the late 1960s, was made public last night by Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind.

The plan was issued by the office of the assistant chief of staff for intelligence on May 2, 1968, and rescinded last Dec. 14 by Gen. Kenneth G. Wickham, the Army's adjutant general.

In it, more than 3,000 Army intelligence agents were instructed to collect information on "prominent persons" friendly with potential leaders of civil disturbances.

The orders apparently led to collection of dossiers on such prominent people as Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III, D-Ill., Rep. Abner Mikva, D-Ill., former Illinois

Gov. Otto Kerner, actress Jane Fonda, folk singer Arlo Guthrie and scores of others.

Bayh is a member of the Senate Constitutional Rights subcommittee, which is conducting hearings into the extent of the Army's intelligence-gathering activities.

The Army was given the mission of helping to cope with riots in the late 1960s. Its decision to gather information on potential troublemakers sprang from that mission. The plan declares that to do the job "it must know in advance as much as possible about the wellsprings of violence."

So broadly did the Army interpret its mandate that intelligence units in Europe and Asia were directed to collect the names, organizations, number of participants and nature of protest activities in support of

"peace" groups "in either Communist or nonCommunist countries," and funnel the information back to headquarters:

Domestically, Army intelligence agents were told to gather information on such matters as:

The identity of newspapers, radio or television stations friendly with potential leaders of civil disturbances.

The "aims and activities of groups attempting to create, prolong or aggravate racial tensions." Among those groups, the document listed the NAACP, the Congress on Racial Equality and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The "high command, composition and structure of headquarters, exact titles, rosters of key personnel" of "dissident groups."

"Efforts by minority groups to

upset the balance of power and the political system."

The "failure of law enforcement agencies to properly respond due to indecision, lack of manpower or fear of public reaction."

"Inequitable law enforcement, real or imagined, towards minority groups."

Such "indicators of potential violence" as "wide disparity of average income between white and discontented nonwhite" and the "migration of large numbers of persons from discontented minority groups into cities."

In addition to depending on its own resources for this type of information, the Army asked other government agencies to contribute what they could gather. Among these agencies were the Central Intelligence Agency, the Subversive Activities Control Board, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, the FBI, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, the Navy and Air Force and others.

At its start, the document carries a disclaimer:

"The Army is well aware that the overwhelming majority in both the anti-war and racial movements are sincere Americans. It also realizes that in both groups there is a small but virulent number who are out to tear America apart. . . . These are the activists that control the violent action."

"If the Army must be used to quell violence it wants to restore law and order as quickly as possible and return to its normal protective role--to do this it must know in advance as much as possible about the wellsprings of violence and the heart and nerve causes of chaos."

"The Army seeks only to collect that needed to exercise honest and sound judgment of the measures to be taken in suppressing rampant violence and restoring order. . . ."

Bayh, in a statement, said he was "alarmed by the scope and depth of snooping on peaceful civilians apparent in the plan."

He said he found it "absolutely incredible" that the Army would list the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as groups attempting to create racial tensions.